

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING
(EXCEPT SUNDAYS)
Office of Faith Temple and East Temple Streets
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Charles W. Penrose, Editor
Herbert G. Whitney, Business Manager

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THE RED CROSS MEETINGS.

The American National Red Cross has arranged for watch meetings, to be held in every city, town and village in the United States, on the night of December 31st, to witness the departure of the year 1900, and welcome the opening day and year of the Twentieth century. Preparations have been made in the prominent cities and towns of Utah to carry out the Red Cross design, and we think the movement ought to be encouraged, and the society supported in its grand and noble endeavor.

The Red Cross is in no sense a sectarian institution. It is an organization for the relief of suffering humanity. Its field of operations is the whole world. Its flag is a sign of success wherever it appears. It ministers to the sick in peace and to the wounded in war. It carries comfort into the hospitals and the sad places of the earth, and its nurses and surgeons are held sacred from capture and molestation by opposing armies and hostile nations. The name of Clara Barton, so many years identified with it as worker and president, means to the informed everywhere a token of peace and pity and self-sacrifice for the amelioration of mankind.

It is for these reasons that the Christian churches, associations and societies everywhere, join in efforts to advance the Red Cross cause, and will manifest their appreciation of its worth by responding to the call for the watch meetings at the close of the century. At these gatherings "greetings" from some of the notables among the nations are to be read. The originals will be preserved in the Congressional library at Washington, D. C.

The Deseret News heartily endorses the movement, and hopes it will find support among the people of Utah. Our soldiers in Manila and other places where they have served their country, know what the Red Cross means to the wounded in battle and the distressed in great calamities. The Red Cross is a world's deliverer, and every nation under the sun should give it sustenance. Its deeds of kindness and true charity are recorded on high, and its noble band of workers will find, in the great hereafter, that they have laid up treasures in heaven. Let the watch meetings in this State be among the best if not the biggest in the land!

"MORMONS" AND "CHRISTIANS."

The Washington Post some time ago took occasion to say a good word for the Latter-day Saints. It was discussing the question of discrimination against the admission to the Union of such States as Arizona, on account of the "Mormon" population, and protested against such discrimination. The Post said in part:

"The Mormons constitute a Church, a Christian Church, and so long as they do not violate the laws Congress will not discriminate against them. To ban a State out of the Union because a part of its inhabitants belonged to a particular sect would be a bad precedent."

To this eminently American and correct view, the St. Paul Pioneer Press enters its objection in the following effusion of gall and bitterness—so strong, yet contrasted to the spirit of peace and good will toward all men, which the season should have inspired. It says:

"If the Mormons constitute a Christian Church, then the Mohammedans are also Christians, and Christians of a cleaner type than the Mormons. The Mohammedan conception of God is a far nobler one than that of the Mormons, and the reverence paid to Jesus Christ by the followers of Islam is of a more genuine character. The persistence of the Post in classifying the Mormons in the same category with Baptists, Catholics, Presbyterians and Methodists, as a part of the great Christian body, shows either a profound ignorance or a studied purpose to belittle Christianity and insult its followers."

The purely academic question whether the Latter-day Saints are "Christians" or not, is really of very little moment. It makes no perceptible difference to them, whether, in the judgment of so profound a theological scholar as the editorial writer of the Pioneer Press, Mohammedans are of a "cleaner [Christian] type than the Mormons." They are perfectly content to abide by the decision of a higher tribunal than that, as to their true status.

In the broadest sense of the word, a "Christian" is he who worships the one true God, through the one Mediator, Jesus Christ, His Son. In a narrower sense, a "Christian" is he who has, through the divinely appointed ordinances and authorities, accepted Christ as Savior, identified himself with His cause for his own salvation and that of the race, and as a consequence, leads a life in conformity with the laws and ordinances of the Gospel. By these definitions the Latter-day Saints are willing to be tested.

Their theology may not be patterned on the lines of the impossible Athanasian creed and the semi-Pelagian Augustinian theology. But their God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of Moses and the Prophets, the God of Jesus and His Apostles—the eternal Being whom they have been taught to worship as "Our Father, which is in heaven." Can "Christians" have formed any "cleaner" or "purer," or more exalted conception of God, than that? If so, pray what is it?

But, as has been remarked, the judgment passed upon "Mormon" theology by an unfriendly and ignorant press, or even by theological faculties steeped in prejudices, is of very little consequence. Of more moment is the fact that an influential newspaper does not seem to realize the danger of advocating a religious test for Territories applying for statehood.

Suppose that there are many "Mormons" in Arizona; suppose that the charge is true that Mohammedans are "Christians" of a "cleaner type" than the "Mormons"; suppose that Baptists, Catholics, Presbyterians and Methodists are as much superior to the "Mormons" as the Pioneer Press seems to think; what of it? What has that to do with the admission of Arizona to the Union? The Baptists and the Presbyterians, etc., may have an idea that in the next world they shall be given a monopoly on eternal happiness, from the lofty heights of which they may look down into an abyss in which, to their infinite joy, "Mormons" and Mo-

hammedans and others, shall pass an eternity in wailing and gnashing of teeth; and they may, even in this life, derive all the satisfaction they can out of the contemplation of this spiritual feast. But as for the affairs of this Republic, thanks to God! there is no such separation between the orthodox and the heretics. And to advocate one is to assail the Constitution. If it were possible for bigotry to bar a State out of the Union on account of the religious complexion of its citizens, it would be as well to dig the grave of liberty at the same time.

We would recommend the following sentences spoken by Louis Kossuth at Faneuil Hall, Boston, April 20, 1852, to the careful study of all those who have confused ideas of what liberty really is. What he said of nations, is applicable to sects and classes. He remarked:

"Look to history, and when your heart swells at the fact that liberty never yet was lasting in any corner of the world and in any age, you will find the key of it in the gloomy truth that all who yet were free regarded liberty as their privilege instead of regarding it as a principle. The nature of every privilege is exclusiveness; that of a principle is communicability. Liberty is a principle; its community is its security; exclusiveness is its doom."

"What is aristocracy? It is exclusive liberty; it is privilege; and aristocracy is doomed, because it is contrary to the destiny and welfare of man. Aristocracy should vanish, not in the nations, but also from amongst the nations. So long as that is not done, liberty will never be lasting on earth."

"A privilege never can be lasting. Liberty restricted to one nation never can be sure. You may say, 'We are the prophets of God,' but you shall not say, 'God is only our God.' The Jews have said so, and the pride of Jerusalem lies in the dust. Our Savior taught us humanity to say, 'Our Father in Heaven,' and His Jerusalem is lasting to the end of days."

It has been the curse of mankind that sects and parties have nearly always claimed for themselves the rights and privileges they have denied to others. Not until there is a change in this respect can liberty be finally enthroned and rule supreme in all the earth.

THE TURKISH CLAIMS.

A Washington dispatch explains that the Turkish government has made a contract with the Cramps for a warship, and that the United States government will not refuse to accept any money the sultan may forward to Washington, through that firm, as long as it is understood that the money comes from the Turkish government in settlement of the claims for indemnity that have been admitted to be just and fair. It is supposed that in this way the account will speedily be settled.

But there seems to be further possibility of delay. It is asserted that Germany objects to the sultan paying for a cruiser in America, as long as he owes money to the Krupps for guns obtained from that German firm. The German ambassador, it is said, has formally protested against the consummation of this business scheme, and if so, the matter will in all probability be, once more, relegated to the domain of diplomacy. The sultan will be only too glad to make a note of such a protest, and shift the responsibility for the non-payment of the indemnity from Constantinople to Berlin. No turn of affairs could be more welcome to the ruler of the faithful. With the sultan willing to pay, but prevented by the Kaiser from doing so, Uncle Sam could not consistently send any more warships to Turkish waters, to collect the debt.

If it is true that Germany has entered a formal protest, the American missionaries may have to wait a long time yet for their money. In the meantime they could arrange a conference with the Krupps for the special purpose of discussing the highly important question, whether, at this advanced stage of civilization, debts for "Christian" guns ought to be given precedence over liabilities incurred through the rough handling of missionary paraphernalia.

The anti-foreign movement in Korea is giving Russia a good opportunity to prepare to seize that country.

Judging from the London dispatches, the British army is causing more worry to English society than to the Boers.

It is said the United States will pay \$3,000,000 for the Danish West Indies. At such a figure they are likely to become American soil.

The report that Gen. Dewet has been captured is not yet confirmed. Indeed, a strong point against its accuracy is found in the denial of Gen. Dewet himself.

From the way things look, Gen. Maximo Gomez will be president of the Republic of Cuba before another year passes. The reward would not be misplaced.

The dynamite roasters are probably not all dead, but one of them in West Virginia was blown from mortal existence yesterday, in company with five other victims of his criminal foolishness.

Gen. Alger is in the field again, this time with a severe attack on Gen. Miles. The war which originated between these two during the Spanish-American trouble bids fair to outlive them both.

A State senator in Illinois has been indicted on the charge of keeping a gambling house. That is not such a great offense on the part of Illinois legislators, judging by what the newspapers of the State say of them.

The acceptance of Maori soldiers to fight against the Boers is producing adverse comment in British society. But why shouldn't the Maoris be used if they can bring the success in South Africa that British society is clamoring for?

The Chinese have submitted to the powers five pertinent queries as to the scope of the joint note. By the time the powers agree on a reply to them, the Chinese have time to get a fairly good "ready" for the next probable complication.

emperor near the European influences, but can fall back from his agreement on the ground that he was not the royal representative.

There is to be a great concerted revival of so-called Christianity at the opening of the new century. But how many of these revivalists would listen to the Founder of Christianity if He were to send a messenger to them might prevent another question.

Glasgow has so many drunks that an isolation hospital forty miles distant has been purchased for them at a cost of \$55,000, where it is proposed to make them work. If there is anything that will cure a Glasgow drunkard it is compelling him to do the work of an Ayrshire farmer. The hospitals managers have a contract on their hands.

An editor of a country paper in Indiana has begun suit for \$200,000 against citizens of Washington county, that State, for "whitecapping" him. He says they did this because he refused to allow them to control the policy of his paper. He ought to get a good round sum, if his paper's policy was reputable; but there are times when an abusive newspaper editor and a whitecapper are a pair.

A local contemporary that makes a specialty of misrepresenting its neighbors has evidently been gazing into a mirror, and has described what it saw, in a long paragraph which contains, so far as it goes, a very accurate report of its own sins and shortcomings. Having beheld itself "as in a looking glass," we hope it will consider well the necessity of reform, and that the new year will show proofs of its true repentance. "While the lamp holds out to burn," etc.

People interested in reservoirs in Utah should note the success achieved by the Davis and Weber County Canal company in its great reservoir in East Canyon. The success that has attended this enterprise has been all too phenomenal; and now the company has awarded the contract to raise the dam twenty-five feet higher, thus securing hundreds of millions of gallons of water above the present supply, and bringing a much larger area of land under irrigation. The work heretofore has been so well done that in 1900 there was not even a break in the canal bank.

An eastern exchange remarks that it behooves every city to be watchful for smallpox, for the pest is abroad, and is liable to stalk down upon any community. New York is waging a persistent fight. In Winona, Minn., there are 400 cases. Schools have been closed and street cars not allowed to pass through infected districts. Many cases are reported from Manchester, N. H. Other places where it recently has become noticeable are Decatur, Ill., Omaha, Neb., and several towns in Iowa and the Indian Territory. The presence of the affliction throughout the land, is not, however, charged to the influence of the Deseret News.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

New York Churchman.
While there can be only independence of the church of Rome, between the national Christian churches there can be and ought to be a brotherly interdependence, remote where the nations are remote in tradition and development, as is the case between us and the Orthodox Eastern churches, close and intimate between the nearer sisters of the Anglican communion. Our church is national, therefore autonomous. Our church is catholic, and cannot, therefore, be a law to herself without denying the very root of her being. There may seem a contradiction here, but it is only one of those anomalies of human life that blend in divine harmony. It is says Bishop Doane, a false catholicity that would wipe out or merge into an unwieldy subordination the national idea.

New York Outlook.
Dr. Kostlin, who is probably the best living exponent of the Lutheranism of Luther, declares that it was the essence of Luther's teaching that there is no external standard, no final authority outside of man himself. We have no doubt that Dr. Kostlin correctly interprets the great reformer. The issue is clear and simple. Is man to look within himself or without himself for the final arbiter? The Roman Catholic church bids him look without himself and find that arbiter in a book. But the Reformation, as interpreted by Martin Luther, bade him look within, and more and more the tendency of the age is to measure all affirmations of the church, all its dogmas and doctrines, against the very root of her being, its tenets and teachings, by their conformity to what the friends have well called the inner light. This looking to the inner light, this trust and confidence in the infallibility of the inner faith, as the age of authority disappears, the belief founded on authority disappears also.

New York Independent.
Concretely—and it is one of the chief merits of our good bishop, that he has the habit of being concrete and explicit—Dr. Potter says that the American people must adopt a simpler mode of life. Instead of squandering their wealth in senseless extravagance, or in debauching themselves with luxury, they must devote it to education, to culture, and to morality. But when we ask ourselves just how we are to return to simplicity of life, we encounter serious difficulties. Are we to find simplicity by the easy method of doing without? Are we to cut off expenditures for household construction and furnishing? Are we like Puritans and Quakers, to deny ourselves pictures, music, opera-houses, and theaters? Such questions have only to be asked to reveal the impossibility of a return to simplicity by the short and easy road of self-denial. There is only one other road, and that is the wonderfully difficult one of doing with less. The path of simplicity will lead us, if we can continue in it, to the only attainable simplicity of life. For, if we were sincere, there are four things which we should never do. We should never buy things that we do not want. We should never buy things that we cannot do without. We should never buy things that we do not need. We should never buy things that we do not use.

NON-CHRISTIAN RULERS.

Philadelphia North American.
Among the non-Christian religions Mohammedanism claims the largest number of rulers of rulers. The ruler who goes to the mosque in Constantinople each Friday attended by ten thousand soldiers, there are the Kh-

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